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of the reserves mentioned are numerous lakes, and these are to be connected with wide roads, which, when completed, will, it is thought, form an effective obstacle to the progress of conflagrations.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Beloit College it was announced that the College had received a gift of \$25,000 for the endowment of the chair of chemistry, now occupied by Professor E. G. Smith. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. It was also reported that the sum of \$70,000 had been raised toward the \$100,000 necessary to secure Dr. Pearson's gift of \$50,000.

MRS. DANIEL C. EATON has recently given \$2,000, the income from which is to be devoted to a scholarship open to competition by the graduate students of Yale University.

THE following assistants have been appointed in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University: C. B. Rice, in physics; W. G. Van Name, in biology; C. H. Warren and W. M. Bradley, in chemistry, and G. L. Bunnell, in zoology.

THE registration of students at the University of Pennsylvania for the year 1897-1898 is 2,834, an increase of 23 over the previous year. A decrease of 38 in the medical school is due to the raising of the requirements for admission. The officers of instruction number 258.

REPRESENTATIVE HAYES, of Lowell, has introduced into the Massachusetts House of Representatives a bill for a State appropriation of \$100,000 to the Lowell Textile School, one-half of the amount to be paid in 1898 and 1900. At the same session Representative Dubuque, of Fall River, introduced a bill for an appropriation of \$100,000 for the establishment of a school in that city upon the same lines as the one in Lowell.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

'WILD NEIGHBORS.'

EDITOR OF SCIENCE: A man who has been making books as long as I rarely 'talks back' to the critics. I never did so but once, and that was to rebut misstatements likely to injure the

value of my property. For the same reason I beg leave to reply to your recent notice of my book 'Wild Neighbors' (The Macmillan Co., 1897), first thanking you for such commendation as is given.

Alluding to the fact that in order to round the biographies of the various animals treated, and make them interesting, I drew upon the writings of several 'well-known' naturalists, the reviewer so states this matter as to imply that the whole book is nothing but a mosaic of quotations, 'direct and indirect' (oh, fie!), and later frankly says that it 'offers nothing in the way of new and original matter.' It would be possible to produce an interesting and even valuable book in that way; but, if by the latter phrases quoted above it is meant that the book contains nothing of my own observation, I must protest. The chapter on Gray Squirrels distinctly states that it is wholly personal experience, and I have certainly seen on several occasions each of the other mammals described. As I did not write the book to laud myself, but to set the subject well before the reader, it did not occur to me invariably to put in the big I, yet I have not yet heard any complaint as to stolen goods.

Your reviewer alleges that 'many misleading statements are made,' and in support of this makes a very erroneous one himself. "The reader is told," he says, "that the Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*) is now conceded to be the only species ranging between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, while in reality some twenty-two species and twelve subspecies are now recognized in the United States." The reader is not told (by me) anything of the sort. He is told that the early naturalists, lacking large numbers of specimens, made several distinct species, so-called, of what are now conceded to be only geographical varieties of the single species *Tamias striatus*. There is a sort of sneer in the reviewer's next remark: "Young opossums are said to go about clinging to their mother's tails soon after they are born." That is not altogether a fair way of putting my account of it; but—don't they 'sometimes'? Credible persons say they do—Flower and Lydekker, for instance. Then the reviewer asserts that my 'nomenclature is out of date, a large proportion of the